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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/675,244	09/29/2003	Christian Muller	59992 (45107)	3489
21874	7590	11/29/2004	EXAMINER	
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP			NGUYEN, HIEP	
P.O. BOX 55874				
BOSTON, MA 02205			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2816	

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/675,244	MULLER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hiep Nguyen	2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14-19 and 21-23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on 08-30-04 has been received and entered in the case. New ground of rejections necessitated by the amendment is set forth below.

Claim Objections

Claims 14 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities: letter “if” is not a positive recitation. It should be changed to --when--; the recitation “ the path” in claims 17 and 18 lacks antecedent basis.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35, U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hung et al. (6,018,257).

Regarding claim 24, figures 2, 7 and 9 of Hung show a driver circuit comprising:

a circuit node (OUTPUT),

at least two first transistors (102, 202), the load sections of which are connected in series and connect the circuit node with a predetermined voltage,

at least two second transistors (104, 204), the load sections of which are connected in series and connect the circuit node with a reference potential,

a control circuit (208) designed to regulate at least a first control voltage (210) on at least one transistor of the at least two first transistors and at least a second control voltage (214) on at least one transistor of the at least two second transistors dependent on a voltage at the circuit node (col. 4, lines 41-67),

wherein said driver circuit is implemented in CMOS technology and the transistors are MOSFET'S, and

wherein a well control is provided for controlling well voltages (5V) of the at least two first transistors.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 20 is allowed.

Claims 14-19 and 21-23 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in this Office action.

Claims 14-18 and 21-23 are objected to because the prior art (US pat. 6,018,257) fails to teach or fairly suggest a driver comprising a control circuit which is designed to increase the control voltages in an inactive state of the driver circuit, when at least one threshold value is exceeded by the voltage on the circuit node, and wherein the control circuit comprises an electrical path from the circuit node to the reference potential, which electrical path has at least one diode to pre-set the at least one threshold value as called for in claim 14.

Claim 19 is objected to because the because the prior art (US pat. 6,018,257) fails to teach or fairly suggest a driver comprising a control circuit having active and inactive state; the control circuit increasing the control voltages in the inactive state when the voltage at the circuit node exceeds a threshold value; the control having an electrical path comprising transistor and diode for regulating the control voltage when the voltage at the circuit node is below a threshold voltage.

Claim 20 is allowed because the prior art (US pat. 6,018,257) fails to teach or fairly suggest a driver comprising a control circuit which is designed to change the driver circuit dependent on an enabling signal into an active or inactive state, and wherein the driver circuit is configured in such a manner that in the active state it consumes no static power.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 2816



A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hiep Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1752. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hiep Nguyen

11-15-04 
TUAN T. LAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER